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## ANNUAL MEETING, 1866.

The Society held its annual meeting this day, Thursday, April 12, at eleven o'clock; the President, the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; the City of Boston; the Boston Society of Natural History; the Essex Institute; the New-England Historic-Genealogical Society; the New-England Loyal Publication Society; the Royal Academy of Sciences of Lisbon; the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; the Young Men's Mercantile Library Association of Cincinnati; the Publishers of the "Right Way"; Mr. Arthur Amory; John Appleton, M. D.; Rev. Caleb D. Bradlee; Samuel Brush, Esq.; Count Adolphe de Circourt; Deloraine P. Corey, Esq.; Henry B. Dawson, Esq.; Mr. John W. Dean; Mr. Ezra C. Dyer; Professor Daniel C. Gilman; Charles H. Hart, Esq.; Ludwig Henselmann, Esq.; Hon. Samuel Hooper; Benjamin P. Johnson, Esq.; Thomas S. Kirkbride, M.D.; Mr. Henry J. Morgan; William J. Rhees, Esq.; Hon. Alexander H. Rice; Benjamin S. Shaw, M.D.; Horatio G. Somerby, Esq.; Henry R. Stiles, M.D.; Daniel E. Webb, Esq.; Hon. Henry Wilson; Colonel James G. Wilson; Mrs. Joseph E. Worcester; and from Messrs. Deane, Green, Lawrence, Metcalf, C. Robbins, Ticknor, Wheatland, and Winthrop, of the Society.

James Parton, of New York, was elected a Corresponding Member.

Dr. APPLETON, the Assistant Librarian, requested permission to make a copy of the *fac-simile* of the Proceedings of the Town of Ipswich in opposition to Sir Edmund Andross, which Dr. Appleton had presented to the Society a few years since.

These applications were granted under the rules.

Two printed broadsides, presented by Mr. E. C. Dyer, of Cambridge, were communicated by the President. One of these was a "Notification" by Thomas Clark, Town Clerk of the Town of Boston, dated February 26th, 1822, calling upon "The Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston . . . to meet at Faneuil Hall, on Monday, the fourth day of March next, at 10 o'clock, A.M., to give in their ballots on the following questions, viz.:—

"1st, Will you accept the charter granted by the Legislature, entitled 'An Act to establish the City of Boston,' as passed on the twenty-third day of February, 1822? .

"2d, Shall the elections for State and United-States officers be holden in General Meeting?"

The second paper is dated "Centinel Office, 12 o'clock, August 19, 1824," and is headed "General Lafayette," and reads as follows: "The Mayor has this moment received official information from New York, that MAJOR-GENERAL LAFAYETTE will proceed forthwith to Boston, and will be at the Half-way House between Providence and Boston on Sunday evening next; and that he will enter Boston the next day. The arrangements for his reception will be announced on Saturday."

The chairman of the Standing Committee, the Treas-

urer, the Librarian, and the Cabinet-keeper, presented their Annual Reports, which were accepted and referred to the Committee on the Publication of the Proceedings.

*Annual Report of the Standing Committee.*

The Standing Committee of the Massachusetts Historical Society, on a review of its condition and action during the past year, have found little which requires to be particularly mentioned in their Annual Report.

Since the last annual meeting, the Society has had to mourn the loss of four of its best known and most esteemed associates, to whose memory fitting tributes have already been paid,—Mr. Willard, Mr. Livermore, Dr. Worcester, and Dr. Sparks, its first Vice-President. The deaths of six Honorary and Corresponding members have also been brought to the notice of the Society in the course of the year. Five Resident Members and one Corresponding Member have been elected during the same time.

The Library and Cabinet of the Society have been examined, and found to be in their usual good order. For particular information respecting them, the Committee beg leave to refer to the Reports of the Librarian and the Cabinet-keeper; and, for a detailed statement of the financial condition of the Society, to the Report of the Treasurer.

The Standing Committee would, however, suggest to their associates, that the existing shelves and book-cases of the Society are quite insufficient for the proper arrangement of the books and manuscripts already in its possession, and afford very little accommodation for future additions. At the same time, for want of means, the Library is falling far behind what it should be, and is very defective even in works of such primary value as Histories of the nation, and of the different States, Counties, Cities, and Towns. The Committee

feel that they cannot too strongly urge upon the members of the Society the importance, not to say the necessity, of an increase of its pecuniary resources.

No volume of the Collections of the Society has been completed since the last annual meeting; but one is now in the course of preparation, and the materials for another are ready for the press. Several of our members have published, outside of the Society, original works of great historical interest, among which Parkman's "Pioneers of France in the New World," and Frothingham's "Life of Warren," deserve special mention.

In closing this brief abstract of the life of the Society during the past year, the Standing Committee would respectfully remind their fellows, that the recent loss of so many of the leading members and most faithful workers of the Society calls upon the survivors for increased labor and devotion, if they wish to prove themselves worthy to be associates and successors of those who have been taken from us, and to maintain and transmit the reputation and usefulness of the Society.

All which is respectfully submitted.

For the Committee,

HORACE GRAY, JR., *Chairman.*

### *Annual Report of the Treasurer.*

The Treasurer of the Massachusetts Historical Society presents the following statement of its financial condition:—

#### GENERAL ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL, 1866.

##### DEBITS.

Balance due Treasurer, April, 1865 . . . . .	\$1,632.43
John Appleton . . . . .	999.97
George Arnold . . . . .	699.96
Insurance . . . . .	187.50
Boston Taxes . . . . .	1,027.00
Sundries . . . . .	433.41
Amount carried forward . . . . .	\$4,980.27

Amount brought forward . . . . .	\$4,980.27
Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund . . . . .	120.00
Appleton Fund . . . . .	732.18
Printing . . . . .	700.77
Binding. . . . .	221.44
Coal . . . . .	115.00
	<u>\$6,869.66</u>

## CREDITS.

Rent of Suffolk Savings Institution . . . . .	\$2,200.00
Assessments . . . . .	819.00
Admission Fees . . . . .	30.00
Sales of Society's Publications . . . . .	302.65
Tax of Suffolk Savings Bank . . . . .	1,027.00
Sale of \$1000 U. S. Stock . . . . .	1,062.00
Interest on U. S. Stock . . . . .	42.30
Sundries . . . . .	20.40
Balance due the Treasurer . . . . .	1,366.31
	<u>\$6,869.66</u>

## THE APPLETON FUND.\*

*Account ending April, 1866.*

## DEBITS.

John Appleton, services . . . . .	\$200.03
Benjamin Bradley, binding Collections, vol. vii. . . . .	112.95
Balance in the Treasurer's hands . . . . .	761.66
	<u>\$1,074.64</u>

## CREDITS.

Balance of Account of 1865 . . . . .	\$342.46
One Year's Interest on the Investment in Society's Building . . . . .	732.18
	<u>\$1,074.64</u>

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL TRUST-FUND.

*Account to April, 1866.*

## - DEBITS.

Balance in the Treasurer's hands . . . . .	\$750.57
	<u>\$750.57</u>

## CREDITS.

Balance of Account of 1865 . . . . .	\$630.57
Income to April, 1866 . . . . .	120.00
	<u>\$750.57</u>

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\* For a particular description of the different funds belonging to the Society, see the Treasurer's account of last year.

## PROPERTY OF THE SOCIETY.

*The Estate on Tremont Street.*—The Society purchased, March 6, 1833, of the Provident Savings Institution, the second story, and one-half of the attic story, of this building, for \$6,500; and on the 13th of March, 1856, the remainder of the interest of this institution, for \$35,000. A portion of this was paid by subscription; and, for the remainder, the Society mortgaged the whole estate to the Suffolk Savings Bank for Seamen and Others, for \$27,500. This mortgage was discharged on the 7th of April, 1863. The payments on the note have been as follows: Two thousand dollars from the legacy of Miss Mary P. Townsend; sixteen hundred dollars from the legacy of the late Nathaniel I. Bowditch; five hundred dollars from the Historical Trust-Fund; twelve thousand two hundred and three dollars from the net proceeds of the sale of stocks of the Appleton Fund; ten thousand dollars from the note of Hyde and Watriss, constituting the Dowse Fund; and the balance, eleven hundred and ninety-seven dollars, from a donation by the late Hon. William Sturgis, to enable the Society to discharge the mortgage. The lower floor is rented to the Suffolk Savings Institution for fifteen years from March 1, 1856, at an annual rent of \$2,200.

*The Library, Paintings, and Cabinet.*—The Library consists of about thirteen thousand bound volumes, and twenty thousand pamphlets.

*The Society's Publications.*—These consist of the thirty-seven volumes of the Collections, five volumes of Proceedings, and two volumes of the Catalogue,—nearly eight thousand volumes, which are for sale.

*The Appleton Fund*, of ten thousand dollars; *The Massachusetts Historical Trust-Fund*, of two thousand dollars; *The Dowse Fund*, of ten thousand dollars,—all invested in the real estate of the Society, as explained in this Report.

*The Dowse Library.*—This Library was presented to the

Society by the late Thomas Dowse, and consists of about five thousand volumes.

*The Copyright and Stereotype Plates of the "Life of John Quincy Adams."* — This was presented to the Society by the Hon. Josiah Quincy. A new edition is on sale by Nichols & Noyes.

#### THE INCOME.

The income of the Society consists of an annual assessment on each resident member, of seven dollars — or, instead, the payment of sixty dollars; the admission fee, of ten dollars, of new members; the rent of the lower floor of the Society's building; the sales of the publications of the Society; and the sales of the "Life of John Quincy Adams."

It will be seen that the amount realized from the sales of the Society's publications, the last year, was only \$302.65, — not half the sum realized the previous financial year; and this notwithstanding unusual effort has been made to dispose of them. The Society have on hand 5,197 bound volumes, and 2,475 unbound. It is not too much to say, that they embody a vast amount of invaluable material for American history, which no student of it can afford to neglect; and it is fair to presume that these volumes will in time be called for. In the mean time, should the Society continue its usual labors, it will be necessary to provide additional means.

RICHARD FROTHINGHAM,

*Treasurer.*

Boston, April 10, 1866.

#### *Annual Report of the Librarian.*

Depending chiefly on voluntary contributions, we cannot but entertain a profound sense of gratification at the steady growth of our Library. The additions since our last Annual



Report, amounting to six thousand two hundred and seventy-two in number, of which five hundred and ten are printed volumes, greatly exceed the average of previous years. Frequent and valuable gifts from the President, in all more than two hundred; continued benefactions from another of our associates, in donations of town histories and publications relating to the late rebellion; an extensive collection of books and pamphlets from John F. Eliot, Esq., formerly belonging to his grandfather, one of our original founders,—deserve our especial acknowledgment. Among the last is a complete set of Fleet's Register, commencing with the year 1779, which, from its rarity and the information it contains, not to be found elsewhere, is peculiarly acceptable. The whole number of volumes at present in the Library is nearly eighteen thousand; of pamphlets, twenty thousand.

All our shelves are now filled; and late accessions, numbering several hundreds, are temporarily deposited in the large upper room. Nearly eight thousand pamphlets are heaped upon the floor of the adjacent apartment, the cases provided being already crowded. In bringing this fact to the knowledge of the Society, it is not intended to discourage further donations. It must ever be our paramount obligation to perfect our collection in all its departments, securing every issue from the press, old or recent, which can, by any possibility, ever be in request. Opportunities neglected may never recur. When all our available space is occupied, we should make more; for it is far better to submit to inconvenience, than fail to procure, while in our power, material that future historians may need.

One serious embarrassment from limited shelf-room is unavoidable confusion in arrangement. Order is an essential element of every well-regulated library, and has been a marked feature of our own, since it was placed under the charge of Dr. Appleton. Works on the same subject, or analogous in character, are contiguously disposed, the eye embrac-

ing them all at a glance. Authorities to the same point, for convenient reference and comparison, should be in close proximity; and it is matter of common experience how much more tenaciously we retain nice distinctions and interesting facts from having constantly in view, in their proper connection, the volumes from which we have obtained them. Folios and duodecimos, though intimately related from common authorship or identity of topic, must generally be distributed according to size, and chronological or geographical order be subordinate to symmetry or economy of space. But, where this rule of contiguity cannot be strictly observed in one direction, it may be in another; and, while each volume has its place not often disturbed, accommodation should be reserved in its neighborhood for accessions of a kindred nature. With our present contracted limits, this exact classification is constantly becoming more difficult. We must content ourselves with approximation to completeness, until we possess an edifice more nearly commensurate with the objects of the Society.

As many years may elapse before it becomes expedient again to change our location, one mode of relief that has been suggested deserves consideration. By substituting a Mansard roof for the present one, another commodious story might be gained for the uses of the Library. Our "collections" and unbound newspapers are now stored in the attic; but if that floor be improved as proposed, and connected with that beneath by a circular flight of iron steps, the new apartment could be devoted to pamphlets and public documents not often consulted, and accommodation left below for several thousand volumes. This estate may be soon more valuable for other purposes; but the improvement, judiciously made, will enhance, to the full extent of its cost, the price realized in the event of sale. If not deemed advisable to make this alteration now, we have it in reserve.

Methodical arrangement, all-important with regard to

books, is not less to be studied in the assortment and preservation of pamphlets. If generally ephemeral in their nature, they serve to transmit the "form and pressure" of the times that produce them, and are indispensable to historical inquiry in determining the true character of events, controversies, and personages of particular epochs. From his long familiarity with the subject, and thorough knowledge of what has been tried and approved in other collections, Dr. Appleton has devised a plan for making our rich stores readily available, admitting of indefinite extension without confusion. By their distribution under twelve different heads of— 1. Addresses; 2. Almanacs; 3. Catalogues; 4. Celebrations; 5. Documents; 6. Memoirs; 7. Orations; 8. Reports; 9. Sermons; 10. Speeches; 11. Trials; 12. Miscellanies; with numerous subordinate classifications;— every separate publication can be promptly brought within reach of the student. Some of them, which are peculiarly precious, may be of sufficient value to be bound separately, others in regular series in volumes; but the great mass are to be arranged in cases, suitably labelled and numbered, where they are accessible, and at the same time little exposed either to wear or tear or dust.

As received, each pamphlet is marked with initials corresponding to the division to which it belongs; and these initials are also inscribed in the margin of the catalogue card, indicating the place where it is to be found. The arrangement in each division is alphabetical, under the names of the authors, where known; otherwise, following the subject or title of the tract. A complete card catalogue, such as is now generally to be found in every large library, wherein each book as well as pamphlet is indicated in triplicate by subject, author, and title, is useful; and such a one we have in preparation. We might well wish to possess such a double classified catalogue of authors and subjects as that for pamphlets at the Athenæum. It would be also convenient for those who, at a distance, have occasion to consult our Library, or to

have copies prepared from volumes not to be found anywhere else, to have our printed catalogue completed. A Library without such a catalogue is nearly as valueless as a book of reference without an index. The plan described for pamphlets, combining simplicity and economy of labor, will serve our purpose for a time; and we may well leave to our successors, and to the more prosperous days of the Society, the task of perfecting it. In the hope that this plan will be permanently retained, its details, not before presented in the Proceedings, are appended to this Report.

The expediency of procuring every publication and document, in print or manuscript, relating to the late rebellion, cannot be too strenuously urged. No pains should be spared to obtain whatever will throw light on the motives which have actuated in this contest individuals or masses. To apprehend correctly its civil and military history, the addresses, general orders and reports of Confederate, as well as of Federal, leaders must be examined. When, after a few years or generations, all cause of irritation has been removed and animosities have subsided, either side of the quarrel will afford useful lessons for example or caution. By correspondence with intelligent persons in the Southern country, able and disposed to aid, much that may prove of the greatest value at a future day could be gleaned. If the Committee appointed for this duty had a small appropriation at their disposal, the result would no doubt repay the cost.

For this and similar objects, to bind books that need it, supply odd volumes to broken sets, or to perfect series where incomplete, to obtain the latest historical productions fresh from the press, to rescue precious waifs from auctions or second-hand repositories, we much need a permanent fund. If the favored almoners of Providence, who possess the will and the way to mark their path with golden footprints, would divert from other claims a trickle of their bounty; if a few thousands, or even hundreds, of dollars were allowed

to accumulate until the income should prove sufficient to purchase books we need, not likely to be bestowed,— we should in time possess a collection adequate to our wants, and to the position which we hold as the oldest American Historical Society.

THOMAS C. AMORY, *Librarian*.

*System of Classification of Pamphlets in the Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society.*

1. ADDRESSES. — Educational, Historical, Medical, Political, Society, and Miscellaneous.
2. ALMANACS. — Isaiah Thomas's, Robert B. Thomas's, and Miscellaneous.
3. CATALOGUES. — Book, College, Library, School, Society, and Miscellaneous.
4. CELEBRATIONS. — Centennial, Miscellaneous.
5. DOCUMENTS. — City, Law, Library, Political, State, Town, United States.
6. MEMOIRS. — Biographical, Genealogical, Historical.
7. ORATIONS. — Boston, Collegiate, Fourth of July. Occasional.
8. REPORTS. — Benevolent Institutions, Educational, Library, Medical, Railroad, Society, and Miscellaneous.
9. SERMONS. — Artillery Election, Centennial, Convention, Dedication, Election, Fast, Funeral, Historical, Installation, Ordination, Society, and Miscellaneous.
10. SPEECHES. — Congressional, Legislative.
11. TRIALS. — Judicial.
12. MISCELLANEOUS. — Anti-Slavery, Boston, Coinage and Currency, College, Ecclesiastical, Educational, Harvard College, Historical, Library, Medical, Masonic and Anti-Masonic, Political, Prison Discipline, Railroad, Society, Statistical, Theological, and Unclassified Pamphlets.

*Report of the Cabinet-keeper.*

The Cabinet-keeper has the honor to submit the following Report, which, on account of his unavoidable absence, is the first which he has been able to make for five years. He would acknowledge his indebtedness, during this time, to the Assistant Librarian, Dr. John Appleton, for the care and attention he has given to the Cabinet, and for the Reports he has, with the exception of the last year, annually made.

The accessions to the Cabinet have been from fourteen different individuals. The following list comprises the most important: A cane, formerly belonging to John Hancock, and given by Charles L. Hancock, Esq.; a portrait of Governor Strong, copied from Stuart's picture by Chester Harding, and given by Joseph Lyman, Esq.; a portrait of the Rev. Jeremy Belknap, D.D., one of the principal founders of this Society, painted by Henry Sargent in 1798, and presented by his grand-daughter, Mrs. Jules Marcou; an engraving of the Hon. Daniel Webster, given by our associate, William G. Brooks, Esq.; and a portrait of the Rev. John Eliot, D.D., a former member of this Society, from his nephew, John F. Eliot, Esq.

The Society has a very interesting and valuable collection of portraits of distinguished persons. Many of the paintings deserve better places than they now occupy, and others will soon require the attention of a skilful artist to protect them from the further ravages of time.

There is also a collection of Indian relics, consisting principally of weapons and implements. It is to be hoped that this department of our Cabinet will soon receive that attention which so important a branch of American Archæology demands.

The Cabinet-keeper refrains from repeating certain suggestions, which, if adopted, would involve an expense that

the treasury could not at present easily bear. He looks forward to the time, however, when changes will be made, by which the various articles can be more conveniently shown than at present, and be more readily examined by all who frequent these rooms.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL A. GREEN, *Cabinet-keeper*.

APRIL 12, 1866.

Mr. S. LINCOLN, from the Nominating Committee, reported the following list of officers for the ensuing year:—

*President.*

HON. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, LL.D. . . . . BOSTON.

*Vice-Presidents.*

COLONEL THOMAS ASPINWALL, A.M. . . . . BOSTON.

HON. JOHN C. GRAY, LL.D. . . . . BOSTON.

*Recording Secretary.*

CHARLES DEANE, A.M. . . . . CAMBRIDGE.

*Corresponding Secretary.*

REV. CHANDLER ROBBINS, D.D. . . . . BOSTON.

*Treasurer.*

HON. RICHARD FROTHINGHAM, A.M. . . . . CHARLESTOWN.

*Librarian.*

THOMAS C. AMORY, A.M. . . . . BOSTON.

*Cabinet-keeper.*

SAMUEL A. GREEN, M.D. . . . . BOSTON.

*Standing Committee.*

LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, A.M. . . . . BOSTON.

CHARLES FOLSOM, A.M. . . . . CAMBRIDGE.

AMOS A. LAWRENCE, A.M. . . . . BOSTON.

HENRY W. TORREY, A.M. . . . . CAMBRIDGE.

SAMUEL ELIOT, LL.D. . . . . BOSTON.

The above-named gentlemen were unanimously elected.

On motion of Dr. ROBBINS, it was *Voted*, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to the Hon. Judge Gray and the Rev. G. E. Ellis, the retiring Members of the Standing Committee, for their valuable services.

Mr. FOLSOM moved that a Committee be appointed to prepare an authentic list of the Archives of the Society.

The motion was adopted, and the President appointed Messrs. Folsom, Amory, and Green to constitute that Committee.

The President read the following letter from the Hon. Hugh Blair Grigsby, LL.D., of Virginia, and addressed to himself:—

CHARLOTTE COURT-HOUSE, VA., March 30, 1866.

MY DEAR SIR, — Five years and fourteen days have elapsed since I received a letter from you,—a period of time that will ever be memorable, not only in our own history, but in that of the human race. In all that interval, I did not see a single company under arms, though more than a million of men were engaged in the fearful affray on one side, at one time; for it was reported, at the time of the surrender of General Lee, that General Grant told that officer that he had a million of men under his command. Yet, though secluded on my farm in this county, and taking no part in the struggle, I suffered in my estate most severely. I lost fifteen valuable horses at a single raid, and of course all my servants,—at least one hundred in number. Other losses to a great amount I suffered; and now, when old age is approaching, I am required to exercise a degree of thrift and economy, which—at no time, from my simple habits of life, very uncongenial—is not more pleasant because it is necessary. Should matters remain as they are, I shall have enough left to educate my son of ten, and my daughter of six years, and give them a fair start in the world. As these are my only children, and all I ever had, and as I was immured on my estate during the whole war, I met with no loss of life in my family. The



health of my wife was as good as usual during the war; and thus my household remains as it was at the beginning.

I am now on my estate in Charlotte County, which has been my legal residence for more than a quarter of a century. For the ten years previous to 1861, I usually spent half the year in Norfolk, which is the place of my birth and the abode of my personal friends. I state these things that you may know why it is that I write to you from Charlotte. The county of Charlotte is not void of historical interest. A few miles from my house is Roanoke, the home and burial-place of John Randolph; and somewhat further off is Red Hill, the seat of Patrick Henry and the place of his burial, now owned by the patriot's youngest son, John Henry, my intimate personal friend, who intermarried with the relations of my wife, and whose children are blood relations of my own. Here, too, is the grave of Paul Carrington, the grandfather of my wife, and of Thomas Read, her grand-uncle. These two last you will see an account of in my discourse on "The Virginia Convention of 1776."

And now let me ask whether it is true that one whom I so much esteemed and honored as President Felton is no more. I saw a single line in a newspaper, during the war, that Mr. C. C. Felton died at some place in Pennsylvania; but the locality seemed so foreign to his character, that I indulged the hope that it could not be our noble friend. I have inquired in vain concerning him of persons who have visited the North, and who, being merchants, knew but little of literary men.

Will you kindly tell me about him, and send me any notice of his death that has been published? Of the death of Mr. Everett I know; and, as I presume the Historical Society took notice of it, you will greatly oblige me by sending any account of its proceedings.

We literally know nothing of what occurred in literature during the last four or five years. I have not seen the "Edinburgh" or the "London Quarterly" for five years; or the "North American." Respecting Mr. Choate, I would like to know whether his friends have published his writings. I have Mr. Parker's book, but would like exceedingly to get any thing from your great advocate, whom I very much admired. I trust that Mr. Hillard still lives, and Professor Parsons,—gentlemen whom I do not know personally, and only through their writings.

The latest edition of Judge Story's Miscellaneous Writings I would like to procure; and the proceedings of the Historical Society on the

death of Mr. Quincy, Chief-Justice Shaw, and Judge White, and of any other prominent members who have died recently.

All Mr. Everett's works published in volumes I possess; but, if his contemplated work on the "Laws of Nations" has been published, I would wish to obtain it. I presume that Mr. C. F. Adams, being engaged abroad, has published no life or works of his father. Mr. Quincy's work I possess.

Death has made sad havoc among my most intimate personal friends during the last four years. Mr. Tazewell died in 1860; and, at intervals since, President Tyler, Bishop Meade, and Professor Tucker. With these excellent men, whom I had known from childhood, and with whose writings, for many years past, I was connected as a friend and coadjutor, I seem to have lost much of my *moral* being. With Bishop Meade I held almost daily intercourse during the time he was engaged on his "Old Churches," &c.; and not far from a hundred letters passed between us. Of Professor Tucker's "History of the United States" I revised the first volume, while I spent a winter in Philadelphia; and, during the publication of President Tyler's discourses on historical topics, our communication was most intimate, as his references indeed show. The loss which you have sustained in Mr. Quincy, Mr. Everett, Mr. Felton, and others, will enable you to appreciate all that I feel and say on such subjects, with this qualification, perhaps,—that you lost only of your abundance, while I lost almost all.

I have said nothing of public affairs either in the South or elsewhere; and will only add, that, if on any point you may wish to obtain any information which I am able to give, I will write to you in detail, to the best of my knowledge in the case. I will only say that it is by affection, not by force, the unity of dissimilar communities is to be consolidated.

Is Mr. Deane living? I hope indeed he is; for his taste and liberality were of great service to our early historical literature. Should he be living, would you be so kind as to present my regards to him? If he has published—or rather, I should say, privately printed—any *morceau* of late years, tell him that I would be much gratified to place it by the side of the treasures which he has already bestowed upon me.

I saved my books, statuary, paintings, &c., though they suffered slightly by exposure. I have had all my paintings, my busts, &c., in the woods, covered with leaves from time to time, as a raid approached. My manuscripts and some precious books were from time to time

*buried*; and, on one occasion, the rain came for several days in torrents, and the water rose in the graves to which they were committed, and soaked them thoroughly: but I dried them by hot fires and a hot sun, without material loss.

I need not say that any literary production of yours will be most acceptable. I have your volume of Speeches printed in 1852; and have bound, in a handsome form, those which you were so kind as to send to me, and which I value highly.

By the way, in taking down the volume of your Speeches published in 1852, I saw the paper containing an account of the celebration of the Cincinnati Society in 1857, which you were so kind as to send me; and the fact occurred to me, that my wife is one of the few now living who own the Cincinnati diploma in the *second degree*, her father having been an officer in the Revolution of 1776. It is framed, and hangs in my dining-room. The same holds good of the children of Alexander Hamilton, two of whom, I believe, are now living; but my memory cannot supply me with a third, *who actually holds the diploma in the second degree from the ancestor*. During the war, I was fortunate enough to purchase Stuart's portrait of the late Governor William B. Giles, which represents him to have been quite handsome during the last century, when it was painted (1791-95). I knew him personally as far back as forty years ago, when he was one of the *homeliest men* I ever saw. His health was bad for many years before his death. I hope you may see this portrait some of these days.

I left in my dwelling in Norfolk, in 1861, my statue of the "Fisher's Daughter," by Pettrich, where it remained during the war, and I got possession of it in November last, when my house was restored to me. It was taken because I was absent at my residence in Charlotte, to which I removed in 1861. My painting of "The Shunammite" was also in my Norfolk dwelling, and it was most pleasant to see it after a lapse of four years. It is *large*, six feet by five, and perhaps larger, as it could not be accommodated in any of our rail cars, and was left behind in consequence of the inability of the cars to hold the box containing it. But alas! you may say, to think of paintings and statues and books, when our country is in its present condition! It may be that this is the cause of my trifling.

As I have some paper left, and am disposed with the Antiquary to get the full benefit of post horses,—that is, of the public mail,—I would communicate a statement, which, to a person of your comprehensive tastes, may not be without some interest.

I have recently made an examination to ascertain the number of the survivors of the Virginia Convention of 1829–30, which consisted of ninety-six members, and began its sessions in October, 1829, — thirty-seven years ago nearly; and the result is, that there are *twelve* survivors, the aggregate of whose ages is *nine hundred and six years*, and the average age of each survivor is *seventy-five years*. One died a month or two ago, who is reported to have been near one hundred. Another fact is, that the survivors are apportioned among the four great divisions of the State (as it once was), according to population nearly. The next decennial wave will sweep us all away, or nearly so: as, if all were living, the average age of each would be over eighty-five. One of the present survivors was with John Randolph, when he was insulted by the officers of John Adams's provisional army, in the theatre in the *city of Philadelphia*, in 1799. I have often heard this survivor speak of that incident. His age is near ninety. Another member is between eighty and ninety. James M. Mason and myself are the only *two* under seventy. He is sixty-eight, and I am not yet sixty. It is a mournful office to see such a body of men, so able, so eloquent, so vigorous as they were, pass one by one to the grave. And it may be well enough to say, that the deaths did not occur according to the ages of the members. Some of them, whom you probably knew, — John Y. Mason, Dromgoole, Trezvant, Goode, — died before their turn.

It would be interesting to know the biological facts of your great Convention of 1820, in which John Adams presided, and in which such men as Story and Webster were among equals.

What a theme that Convention would be in the hands of Everett or yourself! and would it not be a becoming thing, on its semi-centennial anniversary in 1870, to put forth a picture of the members as they appeared at the time? Such a collection, in a single discourse, would be an invaluable addition to your historical literature.

With another petition to be pardoned for drawing so heavily upon your patience,

I am very truly yours,

HUGH B. GRIGSBY.

To the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP,  
Boston, Massachusetts.